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# REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NURSING EDUCATION

## FORMERLY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES

THE National League of Nursing Education held its Nineteenth Annual Convention at Atlantic City, N. J., June 23, 24 and 25, 1913. The headquarters were at the St. Charles Hotel, and most of the meetings were held on the Steel Pier.

The first session was called to order by the president, Mary C. Wheeler, R.N., on Monday, June 23, at 10 A.M. The reports of officers, council and standing committees were read and accepted.

The council bent its energies, during the last year, to the organization of state leagues to be affiliated with the National League, and six such leagues were admitted to membership in the national organization. The council authorized Miss Nutting, chairman of the educational committee to take steps to formulate a curriculum usable as a national standard for training schools. The funds for financing the work were secured by Miss Nutting from outside sources, as the League treasury was unable to furnish them. The League has suffered by the death of Frances Black, a graduate of the Rochester Homoeopathic Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., and by the resignation of eight members. Miss Riddle, chairman of the membership committee, presented twenty-seven names for individual membership. The most interesting fact reported from the Department of Nursing and Health, of Teachers College, was the appointment of Miss Goodrich as professor of nursing and health, to work with Miss Nutting for the greater development of this splendid department. It is Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins who has made this appointment possible. The announcement was received with great applause. Miss Stewart's report for the committee appointed to approach women's colleges showed considerable work done. The distribution of the little pamphlet on "Opportunities in the Field of Nursing," by the Nursing and Health Branch of the Alumni Association of Teachers College has been instrumental in introducing into schools and colleges valuable information for students who are looking over the vocational field. Letters of inquiry to college women who are already in the field

have elicited information that will form a working basis next year, and a great incentive to make our nursing schools what they should be, if they are to endure intelligent scrutiny.

The second Monday session was devoted to conferences at the hotels. The conferences on "Teachers of the Preliminary Instruction in Schools for Nurses" and "Standards of Admission to Schools for Nurses" united. Miss Haarer was chairman of the first section, with Miss Watson as secretary. Miss Eakins, who was chairman for this section, was unable to be present. Papers by Amy P. Miller and Grace Allison were read which outlined theoretical and practical instruction given in the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, and the Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, O. The papers were discussed by Miss Watson, who gave an interesting idea of the work at the new Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston. Miss Parsons and Miss Louis also discussed the papers. Some of the main points brought out were the necessity of whole-time, paid instructors; properly equipped class rooms; pupils with sufficient educational preparation; and time enough allowed for study and preparation for both teachers and pupils.

Tuesday, the third session opened at 10 A.M., Miss Wheeler presiding. The report of the auditors was read and accepted. The nominating committee presented the following ticket: president, Clara D. Noyes; vice-presidents, Louise M. Powell, Helen Scott Hay; secretary, to be nominated from floor; treasurer, Mary W. McKechnie; auditor, Lauder Sutherland. Report accepted.

The report of visitors to the Congress of Hygiene and Demography was read and the paper entitled "The Factors of Elimination in Schools for Nurses, (a) Reasons for Pupils Leaving Schools for Nurses before Finishing their Course of Instruction; (b) Reasons why Eligible Pupils do not enter Schools for Nurses." Mrs. Fanny E. S. Smith, Kansas City, did not arrive in time for the session, so the discussion of the subject was taken up on the floor. Many superintendents from different parts of the country took part, and while nothing particularly new was brought out, the old facts that must be faced while they exist were emphasized. The principal reasons why pupils leave training school before finishing their courses are: inefficiency, lack of education, lack of care in selecting pupils, failure to find in schools what is promised in prospectus, homesickness, etc. The reasons why eligible pupils do not enter are: lack of knowledge as to schools and opportunities for nurses, discouragement from doctors, friends and family; reputation of schools for drudgery, long hours, bad food, etc., age requirements in better schools; other attractive occupations; low educational standards for admission; un-

attractive environment; economic necessity for entering speedily into remunerative occupations, etc.

The fourth session opened at 2 P.M., Tuesday, June 24, with Miss Riddle in the chair. Miss Watson, Miss Sutherland and Miss Nash gave reports from the conferences of the previous evenings. Miss Nutting presented the report of the committee on education. The committee has worked along definite lines: To secure through the Carnegie Foundation or some other suitable body a thorough investigation of training schools for nurses, and has succeeded to the extent of arousing the interest of the council of the Academy of Medicine. The council sent a letter to each of the three large nursing bodies for endorsement, in which an appeal is to be made to the Carnegie Foundation for such an investigation. The work for a standard curriculum has been mentioned before. Decided progress along educational lines in nursing schools and recognition by the public of the value of the nurses' services in public health and preventive medicine is noted all over the country. The response of the universities to the needs of training schools is very encouraging. Three universities have offered a one-year theoretical course. Governors of three states have appointed nurses on important commissions. Miss Goodrich emphasized the need of definite evidence of the educational preparation, having found that the pupil's word was not always reliable, also the necessity of adhering persistently to some minimum standard, not lower than one year in high school. A resolution was passed that the League go on record for a standard of not less than one year in high school, that standard to be increased in 1915 to a minimum standard of two years' high school work or a good equivalent. There was some discussion as to the age limit, many high school graduates being deflected from training on account of their youth. There was, on the part of some, strong feeling that it be kept high, but Miss Nutting ended the discussion by saying in effect that the age of the pupil was not as important as the kind of a school into which she entered. A paper on "Nursing Ethics and Discipline," by Charlotte Perry, was read by Miss Annabelle McCrae. The need for careful home training was emphasized and the impossibility of the nurses' school instilling all the required virtues into the prospective nurse, if home and state had neglected her ethical education, was brought out. The discipline should not be too autocratic, and a court of appeal was advocated. Ethical standards are not for pupils alone, but must be maintained throughout the entire hospital staff. The fifth session was held Wednesday, at 10 A.M., when the ticket put up by the nominating committee was unanimously elected. Miss Parsons was nominated from the floor as secretary and elected.

The committee on resolutions presented the following: "Your committee on resolutions begs to submit the following: That the members of the National League of Nursing Education extend their thanks and appreciation to the hostesses who have so generously contributed their time, energy and interest to making these meetings a social success. We would also gratefully thank the committee on arrangements for providing the facilities for carrying on our meetings so successfully. To the several special committees, and delegates who have so ably presented the results of their research, investigation and observations, we are deeply grateful, and wish to express our indebtedness to them. We wish to thank the Atlantic City Publicity Bureau for so kindly making it possible for us to enjoy the advantage of holding our meetings on the Steel Pier. To our retiring officers, particularly to the president and secretary, we wish to express our high appreciation of the magnificent services they have rendered during their two arduous years of incumbency. We wish to thank the New Jersey State Nurses' Association, who have added to the attractiveness of our surroundings by the generous supply of flowers and ferns used for decoration.

*Whereas*, our League during the past year has suffered the loss, through death, of one of its valued members, Miss Frances Black of the Flower Hospital, New York City, and a graduate of the Homoeopathic Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., be it resolved that expression of our sympathy and sorrow be extended by the secretary to her family and to the Alumnae Association with which she was connected; also that a copy of this resolution be placed upon the minutes of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

LAUDER SUTHERLAND, Chairman.

The sixth and last session was held in conjunction with the American Nurses' Association and The National Organization for Public Health Nursing, on Wednesday afternoon.

The meetings were very successful, every one feeling inspired to greater effort for the coming year. Atlantic City was accounted a delightful place for conventions. All felt the restfulness of being released from social functions. A cordial invitation was given by the Atlantic City Hospital to visit its wards, which several accepted, and the Public Health Association gave a general invitation to its dinner at The Chalfonte. Time between sessions was pretty generally spent either listening to the band on the Pier, or wheeling up and down the Boardwalk. The weather was cool, and visitors went home saying that the convention was a great success and a vacation as well. During the coming year it is to be hoped that the state leagues will increase greatly

in number and usefulness, and that the individual membership will at least double itself. The League has scarcely a membership of 400, while the American Hospital Association has over 1000 members. Members are urged to think of the work they could do with a membership as large as that, and to try to bring in each one new member.

SARA E. PARSONS, Secretary.

## PAPERS READ AT THE PRIVATE DUTY SESSION OF THE AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

### PRIVATE DUTY EMERGENCIES

By BERTHA J. GARDNER, R.N.

Much to my surprise, when I began to consider this subject, I could think of no emergencies, but being convinced that I must have met a few, it suddenly dawned upon me that meeting emergencies is taken as such a matter of course that we immediately proceed to forget them. I do not mention these I have been able to think of, as particularly original or valuable.

Perhaps we all meet emergencies in getting to our work promptly I have many times struggled to do so, and then found that there was no great need for the haste. I once received a call at 7 A.M. to go to a village in a neighboring state. Conditions were such that, at 9 A.M., I found myself alone in the house and no one to attend to my trunk, for which the expressman had promised to call. As someone was to meet me at a certain train, I was in despair, and about to take out a few necessities when the man arrived. Not to linger, for I assure you I did not then, I asked permission to ride on the wagon. We made the train in two minutes. As it was Lincoln's Birthday and there was little traffic, my ride through city streets was less observed than it might have been, and my vanity suffered little. I might mention that a train later would have done quite as well!

The difficulty of low beds has always confronted me. I have often had blocks made to put under the legs, but once a visit to the cellar supplied me with two long flower boxes, which, cleaned and turned on the side, did good service. Another time the legs of an old refrigerator, sawed off, were found useful and ornamental. As bedsteads on supports cannot be moved, it is advisable they stand away from the wall. I have found that a strong sheet folded lengthwise and fastened to the head and foot-boards, and the lower edge pinned to the mattress, will guard against draughts, and will keep the patient, if a child, or unconscious, from falling out.